

PSC NEWS Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-06-152

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 3, 2006

PSC SETS INTERVENTION DEADLINE IN SPECTRA REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE CLASSIFICATION IN A FEW OF ITS EXCHANGES

JEFFERSON CITY—Spectra Communications Group, LLC d/b/a CenturyTel (Spectra) has filed an application with the Public Service Commission seeking competitive classification for a few of its exchanges in Missouri. In its request, Spectra is seeking to classify all of its residential services, other than exchange access service, for its Everton and Mt. Vernon exchanges as competitive.

If competitive status is granted, Spectra would no longer be subject to price or rate regulation by the PSC in the above exchanges. Spectra would be permitted to raise or lower its telephone prices at its own discretion, subject to the marketplace. The PSC would continue to regulate quality of service, service termination and other billing issues.

Applications to intervene and participate in this case must be filed on or before **February 7**, **2006**, with the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. Copies of the application should be sent to: Larry W. Dority, Fischer & Dority, P.C., 101 Madison, Suite 400, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101; and the Office of the Public Counsel, P.O. Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-2230.

In this case, state law requires the Commission to issue its decision within 30 days of Spectra's February 1, 2006 filing. Under the law, the 30-day criteria for determining competitive classification is based upon the existence of two other entities providing basic local telecommunications service, one of which may be a wireless provider, the other a wireline company providing local voice service using facilities in which it has a partial or full ownership interest.

If any party opposes Spectra's application, a hearing will be held on February 16, 2006, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City, Missouri.